

REMARKS

As of the Office action mailed April 9, 2004 claim 1 of the application was pending and stands rejected. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended and in view of the remarks herein is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Drawings

FIG. 22 has been amended herein to add previously omitted reference numeral 514. FIG. 22 has also been amended to separately designate the three illustrated views as FIG. 22a, FIG. 22b, and FIG. 22c, consistent with the originally filed specification. See, e.g., Brief Description of the Drawings.

Amendments to the Claims

New claims 2-35 have been added to the application to further define the subject matter of the present invention. The application as amended includes five independent claims in excess of three, and 15 total claims in excess of twenty. A check in the amount of \$700 ($5 \times \$86 + 15 \times \18) is enclosed herewith to cover additional claim fees. Applicants respectfully submit that, pursuant to MPEP 706.07(a), a final rejection is not warranted at this time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Davis (U.S. Patent No. 6,447,302) in view of Shaffer et al. (4,245,875). Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserted that Davis discloses an electrical connector including a connector body, an electrical contact, a cover, and a biasing member. However, the Examiner conceded "Davis does not disclose the cover and the body are sealed together by a wall and a groove when the cover is closed." In order to supply the missing elements, the Examiner turned to Shaffer et al. The Examiner asserted "Shaffer et al. teach a cover (44) and a connector body (12) are sealed together by a wall (18) and a groove (form[ed] between two member 48, 50)".

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner appears to have misunderstood the teachings of Shaffer et al. Shaffer et al. does not teach "a cover (44) and a connector body (12) [that] are sealed together by a wall (18) and a groove (form[ed] between two members 48, 50)". Rather, Shaffer et al. discloses "[t]he cover 44 further includes first latching lug 48 and second latching lug 50 extending from a surface thereof ... The latching lugs are also positioned to be received within the cylindrical portion 18 when the cover 44 is closed." (emphasis added) Col. 3, l. 24-29. Accordingly, even assuming cylindrical portion 18 is a sealing wall and the latching lugs 48, 50 provide a groove as required by the present invention, a point Applicants do not concede, Shaffer et al. does not teach a cover and a connector body sealed together by a wall and a groove, as argued by the Examiner. Shaffer et al. teaches a receptacle housing having a cylindrical portion that may be closed by a cover. The cover includes two latching lugs, both of which are received within the cylindrical portion when the cover is closed. It is clear, therefore, that the combined teachings of Davis and Shaffer et al. do not teach, or even suggest, *inter alia*, "when said cover is in said closed configuration said sealing wall is disposed at least partially in said groove" as recited by claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that the combined disclosures of the cited references fail to teach, or even suggest, in pertinent part, "a connector body portion comprising ... a groove disposed at least partially around said contact ... a cover ... comprising a sealing wall extending from a surface adjacent said body portion ... wherein when said cover is in said closed configuration said sealing wall is disposed at least partially in said groove." Considering the shortcomings of the cited references, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 as obvious over Davis in view of Shaffer et al. be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Having overcome all of the outstanding rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies, or additional fees are payable, please charge, or credit any overpayment to, our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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